

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS REGARDING RFP # 1219VF: INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES

Questions submitted at the Bidder's Conference on June 11, 2012

QUESTION		ANSWER
1.	There used to be two separate RFP's- one for Independent Living, and one for Youth Engaged in Service. Did this change?	Yes. Because the goals of those programs were similar, the RFP's were combined into one Independent Living Services offering, with proposers having the option of focusing on the Educational/Vocational component, the Living Skills component, or both. The total award potentially available for all services is \$800,000.
2.	Can Bridges to Health children receive Independent Living Services?	No. This would be a duplication of services already provided through that program.
3.	How many providers will be chosen to offer these services?	The number of providers chosen will depend on the proposals received.
4.	Can providers do one or the other component, or both?	Yes.
5.	If a provider is to assist with emergency housing needs, does that entail providing the actual temporary housing?	No. Providers are to utilize their linkages to community services to assist the recipient in obtaining the services they need. In the case of emergency housing, the provider might provide referrals to shelters or to ECDSS. The provider's emphasis is on providing the recipients with the SKILLS they need to obtain the services they require.
6.	Is there any data on how many foster kids become homeless after leaving foster care?	Nationwide, the percentage of foster care children who face homelessness within the first two years of aging out is 15 -30%. Many agencies do not keep statistics of what happens to their charges once they leave the foster care system.

Additional Notes:

1. Please note that the RFP Budget Attachment does not mirror the contract budget forms. It is simpler. Also, this year we are not asking for a Certificate of Insurance during the RFP process.
2. Also note that amount for Administrative Expenses has changed from 22% to 20%, following the lead of New York State.